

Lesson 2, Page 1

LESSON II
THE MOSAICAL PERIOD

REVIEW:

You remember that last time we learned how God created the world and all life. God also established a simple form of religion in which He spoke to the fathers (Heb. 1:1) as the heads of a family type religion.

We followed God's people, the Israelites, down to Mt. Sinai where they received a new law. This law will be our study this time.

(Note to the Teacher: This is a long lesson, so make your details brief.)

INTRODUCTION:

- I. Our lesson this time will trace the law of Moses.
- II. On our chart this is the 2nd part.

LESSON:

- I. Mt. Sinai (Key your memory to the mountain and begin there. Also locate this for them on the map.)
 - A. A religious law (Read Exodus 20. This scripture is on the chart.)
 1. Verses 1-19 show us some religious provisions of this law.
 2. These are commonly called "The Ten Commandments."
 - B. Civil law (Exodus 21)
 1. Many people don't realize that the Mosaic law had civil provisions in it also because it had to serve as a complete guide for a whole nation of people.
 2. Just to give a little flavor of this law, you might read:
 - a. Exodus 21:1-6 (the law's treatment of slaves)
 - b. Exodus 21:28,29 (personal liability law)
(These readings shake the student loose from the idea that the Mosaic law was just a religious law.)
 - C. A negative law, mainly
 1. 613 commandments in all.
 2. 245 were positive and 368 were negative.

Lesson 2, Page 2

II. The Wilderness

A. Northward (Turn to map.)

1. Israel left Sinai after receiving its new law.
2. Went to Kadesh-Barnea just outside of Canaan.
3. 12 spies sent out (one per tribe)
4. Gone 40 days.

B. Their report (Numbers 13:27 - Read it.)

1. Returned telling of wonderful land.
2. Ten of spies said, "We can't conquer it."
3. Two faithful spies (Caleb & Joshua) urged that they could.

C. Punishment

1. The people listened to the ten spies and disobeyed God's command to enter the Promised Land.
2. They were condemned, therefore, to wander 40 years in the wilderness.
(One year for each day the spies were gone.)
--- NUMBERS 13 & 14 TELLS THIS STORY. ---

III. Joshua (His name on the chart reminds us of the following.)

- A. Moses led Israel for 40 years while that rebellious generation died one by one.
- B. At the end of 40 years Moses led them back around to the plains of Moab on the east of the Jordan River, and there he delivered a series of sermons to them. In our Old Testament these are known as the Book of Deuteronomy.
- C. Then God took Moses up to a high mountain and let him see the Promised Land before he died.
- D. At Moses' death, Joshua took the leadership and led Israel in conquering the land of Canaan in about 55 years of warfare.
--- THE BOOK OF JOSHUA TELLS THIS STORY. ---

IV. Judges

- A. This period followed the conquest and lasted 355 years.
- B. The tribes were rather loosely organized at this time, and the judges were great leaders who arose from time to time to deliver them from periods of crisis.
- C. Read Judges 2:11-16 to get the cycle which was repeated over and over again.

Lesson 2, Page 3

1. The people sinned and their enemies oppressed them.
2. They cried to God and were delivered.
3. Then they forgot God and fell again.

V. Kings

A. Tired of judges (I Samuel 8:6 -- Read it.)

1. Israel wanted to be ruled by a king like the other nations.
2. The rest of Chapter 8, however, gives God's warning through Samuel as to what will happen to them if they disobey God's wishes.

B. United Kingdom (Lasted 120 years in all)

1. Saul (I Samuel 15:22 - read)

- a. Told to destroy the Amalekites.
- b. Almost did but fell a little short.
- c. Samuel warns him that even this little deviation from God's will, spells serious disobedience. (Read vs. 23 also.)
- d. So Saul was rejected as king of Israel by God.

2. David

- a. Was at first a man after God's own heart.
- b. But David sinned, too, and disobeyed God in the matter of Bathsheba (II Samuel 11:1-4).

3. Solomon

- a. Even Solomon (a wise king) disobeyed God when he allowed his many wives to turn his heart away from God.
- b. But God inspired this same man to write the wise and meaningful words of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon -- for example: "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." Eccl. 12:13

VI. Divided Kingdom

A. Solomon dies in 931 B.C.

B. Rehoboam

1. Solomon's son and heir to the throne.
2. But he refuses to lighten the nation's load, and a revolt leaves him with only two tribes which he forms into a tiny kingdom in the south known from now on as Judah.

Lesson 2, Page 4

C. Jeroboam

1. Leads the ten tribes off in a revolt against Rehoboam.
2. Establishes golden calves at Dan and Bethel for his people to worship.
3. His kingdom in the north known henceforth as Israel.

FORMERLY ALL 12 TRIBES WERE KNOWN AS ISRAEL, BUT NOW ONLY THE 10 TRIBES OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM CARRY THAT NAME; whereas THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM TAKES THE NAME OF JUDAH (which used to be the name of just one tribe.)

D. Captivity

1. The northern kingdom of ISRAEL is carried away by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.
2. The southern kingdom of JUDAH lasts until 606 B.C. when it is carried away to Babylon, and Jerusalem and the temple are finally destroyed in 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar.

E. Return

1. Israel was lost as a kingdom and survives only as a race called the SAMARITANS (a mixture of Israelite and Assyrian blood).
2. Judah
 - a. Stayed in captivity for 70 years.
 - b. Then returns from Babylon (which by now is under the rule of Persia).
 - (1) The temple is restored.
 - (2) Jerusalem's walls are repaired.
3. Malachi closes the Old Testament about 400 years before Christ, but the Jews continue to live under the law of Moses.

VII. Messianic Prophecies

- A. Through the Old Testament, the prophets kept saying, "I see someone coming to redeem us."
 1. They called him a Messiah, which in Hebrew means "the anointed one," the one designated by God to rule men's lives.
 2. So we follow these predictions about someone like a thread woven throughout the Old Covenant.

Lesson 2, Page 5

B. The prophets drew a picture of this Messiah so all could recognize him when he came. (This includes us today!) The prophets described someone who would:

1. Be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:22,23)
2. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1,; Matt. 2:4-6)
3. Die on a cross (Psalm 22; John 19:17-36)

(Other fulfillments are listed on a handout in the extra P.E.T. materials.)

VIII. Christ is born

- A. He fulfilled these prophecies and many, many others perfectly.
- B. He lived a life without sin (I Peter 2:21, 22). IMAGINE THAT!
 1. He never got angry at the wrong time.
 2. He never lusted, hated, or even said the wrong thing at the wrong time.
- C. He was resurrected (Psalm 16:8ff; Acts 2:25-33).
- D. No wonder the world has never agreed on how to classify Jesus. With the kind of life he lived, and the claims he made, he is either:
 1. A liar! (Did he deliberately make false claims about himself?)
 2. A lunatic! (Was he insane and just thought he was God's son?)
 3. Or the Lord! (Was he really what he claimed to be?)

(Peter's conclusion was that he was the Son of God - Matt. 16:16)

IX. Christ's Ministry

- A. Now let's fit Jesus' ministry into God's master plan as revealed on this chart.
 1. Jesus lived out his ministry as a faithful Jew, abiding under the law of Moses.
 2. Although Jesus lived under the law and kept it, he made one thing clear; namely, THOUGH HE DID NOT COME TO DESTROY THE LAW, HE DID COME TO FULFILL IT. (Matt. 5:17, 18)

B. Now we must look for Christ fulfilling the law of Moses.

X. The Ending of the Mosaic Law (Use the verses in the middle of the Mosaical Circle.)

- A. The law came by Moses. (Read John 1:17.)
- B. Yet Paul says law was "abolished." (Read Colossians 2:14.)

NOW DON'T GET IN A HURRY HERE! THIS PART IS PERHAPS THE MAIN REASON WHY YOU HAVE TAUGHT THIS WHOLE LESSON.

(You must help them to see that the law of Moses no longer directly applies to them.)

Lesson 2, Page 6

- C. You ask, "Why would God give a law if He was going to take it out of the way?" That's a good question, and Paul gives the answer in Galatians 3:24, 25 - READ IT.
1. Verse 24 - The law was what?
(Let them tell you the law was a Schoolmaster.
Don't get nervous and answer for them. This is important in helping them to see that the law of Moses has been abolished.)
 2. Verse 25 - This verse says we are no longer under what?
(Schoolmaster, they say.)
Now what is the schoolmaster according to Verse 24?
(It's the law of Moses.)
 3. So is Paul saying, "We are no longer under the law of Moses"?
(Pause to be sure they understand. Let them answer, "Yes.")

D. Understanding what the passing of the Mosaic Law means

(NOW YOU HAVE LED THEM TO SEE THAT THE LAW OF MOSES HAS BEEN ABOLISHED. YOUR JOB IS NOT DONE YET, SINCE THEY STILL MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS!!! THIS SECTION IS GOING TO HELP THEM APPLY THIS NEW FACT THEY HAVE JUST LEARNED TO THEIR LIVES.)
(This, too, is important.)

1. Animal sacrifice
 - a. You don't know of any church in Christianity today that offers animal sacrifice, do you? (No)
 - b. Do you know why they don't?
 - c. Because we aren't under the provisions of the law of Moses!
2. Passover (Take this word next.)
 - a. Do you know of any church which celebrates the Passover Feast? (No)
 - b. Why don't we?
 - c. Because we don't live under the law of Moses!
(Let them answer this.)
3. Sabbath
 - a. Which day is the Sabbath? (Read Exodus 20:9,10) (7th day)
 - b. Which day is the 7th day in our week? (Saturday)
 - c. What day is Sunday? (1st day)
 - d. Why not keep the Sabbath today?
WE DON'T LIVE UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES!
(It was nailed to the cross -- Col. 2:14.)
 - e. Does this mean we don't have to keep the ten commandments?
(1) It simply means we are under a better law than this in the Christian age.
(2) Nine out of the ten commandments are repeated and deepened in Christ's law, and only one is left out.

Lesson 2, Page 7

WHICH ONE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IS LEFT OUT?

- (a) We are not told to "Remember the Sabbath."
- (b) In fact, Colossians 2:16 (which comes just under the verse we read just a moment ago - Col. 2:14) says we are to let no man "judge us in respect of the Sabbath days." (Read it.)

REVIEW:

1. We have learned tonight how God picked out the Jewish nation as His chosen people to bring the promised Saviour to the world.
2. To accomplish this, God gave to the Jews (and only to the Jews) the Mosaic law.
3. This law, like a schoolmaster, brought them to Christ.
4. When they were brought to Christ, the Mosaic law was nailed to the cross, and a new law came into effect.

NEXT TIME, we will be studying this new law.